

Council Member Dave Martin's District E Newsletter

Issue 7

July 2013



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District E

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Residents of District E,

After nine hours of debate on June 19, Mayor Parker and City Council unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2014, \$4.5 billion operating budget which begins today, July 1. The overall \$4.5 billion also includes the \$2.2 billion of General Fund, or tax based portion of the budget, as well as spending in the self supported Houston Airport System and the Combined Utility System. Overall spending in the General Fund is up \$105 million due to contractual pay raises and increases in pension and health benefits.


Mayor Parker and Council Members considered 60 amendments to the Proposed FY14 Operating City of Houston Budget. I offered a total of eight amendments including one citywide item which mirrored Council Member Pennington's amendment, capping spending and designating any surplus revenues collected in FY14 to be allocated towards the City's Fund Balance. I also proposed several amendments, which I am dedicated to working with the Mayor's office on implementing. Some of which include reassigning Houston Permitting Center employees to be officed in Clear Lake and allocating a onetime grant to Space Center Houston to fund the 747/Shuttle Endeavour for the conversion of creating a state of the art educational facility. Lastly, I have decided to designate my remaining council office funds to Houston Police Department Substations in District E.

Other important amendments that were passed include increasing the homestead exemption from \$70,862 to \$80,000 for qualified homeowners over the age of 65, reallocating funds in the proposed BARC budget to increase spay and neuter activities and increasing funding to the Houston Fire Department to redeploy four ambulances.

Moving forward I will be working closely with the Mayor's Administration and the Budget & Fiscal Affairs Committee to update the current financial policy. I look forward to playing an integral role in these discussions in order to better serve District E as well as all citizens of Houston.

As always, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,



Dave Martin

Northpark Drive Construction Notice

City Contacts

Beginning July 1, 2013, the City of Houston's Public Works and Engineering

City of Houston 311
(713) 837-0311

Mayor's Citizens
Assistance Office
(832) 393-0955

Kingwood
Community Center
(281) 348-2570

City of Houston Solid
Waste Management

City of Houston
Public Works
Department

Department of
Neighborhoods

**District E
Community
Contacts**

Lake Houston Area
Chamber of Commerce

Kingwood Chamber of
Commerce

Clear Lake Area
Chamber of Commerce

Southbelt-Ellington
Chamber of Commerce

Bay Area Houston
Economic Partnership

Kingwood Service
Association

Kingwood Super
Neighborhood Council

South Belt-Ellington
Super Neighborhood
Council

Department will begin constructing a dedicated left turn lane at the intersection of Northpark Drive at Woodridge Parkway/Hidden Pines to accommodate large traffic volumes and mitigate traffic flow. Construction will take place Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is expected to be completed by July 25, 2013. During this time, east bound traffic will be down to one lane from the 1900 to the 2200 block of Northpark Drive. Council Member Dave Martin's office will follow the construction progress and update the community should there be any changes to the schedule. For more information, please contact the council member's office at (832) 393-3008 or by email at districte@houstontx.gov.

Kingwood Greens Village Robbery Update

In a series of Burglaries committed on January 13th, in the Kingwood Greens Village, Kingwood, Texas, a suspect burglarized numerous homes and exhibited a taste for fine jewelry, cash and high-priced purses. This suspect is also said to have pried open safes and in some cases took firearms as well. The suspect was selective in the type of jewelry he took and was skilled in knowing how to not set home alarm systems.

The suspect is believed to have burglarized homes in the Memorial Villages area of Harris County, celebrity homes in Las Vegas, Nevada, locations in Tarrant County (Keller, Texas) as well as the homes in Houston, Kingwood and the surrounding area. As the result of an extended and in-depth investigation, HPD officers in Kingwood became aware of burglaries which had occurred in Tarrant County. Kingwood Division officers made contact with officers from the Keller PD and discovered similarities in a string of burglaries which had occurred not only in Tarrant County but other areas as far away as Las Vegas. Quality police work, diligent investigation as well as cell phone and computer technology helped link numerous Burglaries together. For all his current notoriety, the suspect had only once before come to the attention of Harris County law enforcement when he was arrested on a class B misdemeanor theft charge in 1995. He was sentenced to 180 days probation.

Through the investigation, the suspect was found to have had a residence in Katy, Texas where ultimately thousands of pieces of jewelry were recovered. In addition to jewelry, invoices for gold and silver sales as well as a compact disk of jewelry photographs, cash, purses, and other items of value were found in the residence as well. One such sales invoice was for a sale to Gold and Silver Traders on Westheimer, dated after the Kingwood Burglaries. This invoice shows he received a payment from Gold and Silver Traders for a payment of \$88,092.

After Kingwood Division officers revisited several Kingwood residents whose homes were burglarized, they managed to link several items recovered to the actions of this suspect. One Kingwood woman recognized her \$2,900 Chanel purse as well as an employee service pin and other jewelry in a photo. In all, according to court records, four complainants identified their belongings from photographs.

At this time, the Harris County District Attorney's Office has accepted felony theft charges against the suspect in two of the Kingwood Greens cases. Bond for each case was set at \$500,000. Before the suspect will be tried for the Kingwood Greens cases, the suspect will face charges in

Clear Lake Super
Neighborhood

Tarrant County, where he remains in custody at this time. Kingwood Officers are currently trying to get personal property back from the Keller PD which was identified by Kingwood Greens' residents.

Texas 4000 Proclamation Presentation



On June 4 nearly 30 students from The University of Texas' Texas 4000 organization, many from Houston, visited City Hall to be presented with an official proclamation. The group is participating in a 4,700 mile bike ride from Austin, TX to Anchorage, AL, all in support to raise awareness and money for cancer research. Council Member Martin recognized the



courageous efforts of the students and explained to his colleagues that all ride for a variety of different reasons, none less touching and personal. The entire District E team wishes the group a safe ride and will continue to keep them in our thoughts and prayers as they continue to travel north.

Additionally, Council Member Martin especially recognizes his son, David Martin, who is also riding with the Texas 4000 team this summer. The council member and his wife Julie could not be prouder of him for utilizing his talents and abilities to take on this tremendous life-changing journey.

For more information about the Texas 4000, please visit www.texas4000.org.

Kingwood Tea Party Meeting

On June 10, Council Member Martin spoke to the Kingwood Tea Party members at Greenwood Diagnostics regarding a variety of Kingwood related issues. He also addressed the current fiscal state of the city and what to expect in the FY14 budget that was passed on June 19. Council Member Martin thanks Kingwood Tea Party Director, Jim Lennon, for extending the invitation for him to speak.



Humble ISD School Board Trustee Swearing In Ceremony

Council Member Martin had the honor of swearing in newly elected Humble Independent School District School Board Trustee Heath Rushing during the June 12 board meeting. Rushing, who is the Chief



Operating Officer of Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital, fills the Position 6 seat that was previously held by Council Member Martin before he was elected to City Council. Rushing brings a wealth of knowledge to the table and will serve the district honorably.



Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce's New Member Reception

Council Member Martin's Chief of Staff helped greet 45 new Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce members during a reception hosted on June 25. As active chamber members, Council Member Martin and his staff look forward to working with these new businesses in the community.



Pictured to the right: New Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce Members Ross and Lindsay Woods with Texan Dodge; Jonnell Thomas with Texan Dodge; and Alexa Martinez with Panera Bread

Kroger Summer Club

The Kroger Summer Kids Club kicked off last month and offers families, children and summer youth programs the opportunity to view G and PG-rated movies at the ShowBiz Cinemas Kingwood for just 50 cents. Every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. a new movie will be offered throughout the summer. Tickets can be purchased at the box office or online at showbizcinemas.com.



Redford Apartments Safety Day

The Redford Apartment complex located in the southeast area of District E hosted their first annual "Safety Day" for residents and their children. As summer nears, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Houston Police Department and the Houston Fire



Department were on site to demonstrate safety techniques and tips for those living at the complex. Residents had the opportunity to learn more about general crime prevention, aquatic safety as well as fire safety techniques.

Redford Apartments manager, Tammy Rodriguez, has been instrumental in renovating the property since Hurricane Ike and with the previous history of crime and violence on site. Council Member Martin thanks her for her continued dedication to the property, its residents and the city.

Ike Dike Meeting

Last month, Council Member Martin met with Bob Mitchell and Dan Seal with the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership as well as Dr. Bill Merrell with Texas A&M at Galveston regarding coastal storm surge protection systems. Dr. Merrell has been instrumental in studying the effects of storm surge in the Galveston Bay area as well as developing a proposed plan to build a 17 foot wall along the coast's dune line that would essentially stop storm surge at the coastline. As a result, it is believed that all of Galveston, Galveston Bay, Houston, the Port of Houston, and the entire Houston Ship Channel would be protected as well as Chambers and Brazoria counties. Council Member Martin thanks BAHEP for facilitating the meeting and looks forward to learning more about the proposed Ike Dike as plans continue to develop.

I-45 Expansion Construction in Clear Lake

The Texas Department of Transportation recently began work on their plans to expand Interstate 45 from Beltway 8 to Medical Center Blvd. A HOV lane is currently being added in addition to two main lanes in each direction. An additional one to two lanes will be added on the frontage roads with bridge replacements also planned for El Dorado, Bay Area Boulevard, FM 2351 and 1959. While traffic will be temporarily interrupted, Council Member Martin's office will work with TXDOT to ensure that traffic flow remains smooth along the surrounding streets.

Clear Lake Regional Medical Center New Patient Tower Grand Opening

The Clear Lake Regional Medical Center officially opened their new Patient Tower during a public open house and ribbon cutting ceremony last month. The new 155,000 square foot facility features a 30-bed ICU, Observation Unit, Operating Rooms, Surgery Suites and more. With these new features and amenities, the hospital and its staff will continue to bring superior healthcare services to the residents of Clear Lake and surrounding communities. Council Member Martin welcomes the new tower and its staff the community and wishes



them great success.

TAME Exhibit

On June 14, the Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME) had their official launch party for their newest edition to their experiential learning exhibits. The Trailblazer II is a mobile exhibit trailer housing hands-on activities that highlights fundamental concepts in science and engineering such as weather, aerodynamics, biotechnology, energy and space. This



year alone, the trailer will travel 10,000 miles across the state of Texas to schools, libraries and community events to provide early exposure to careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Boeing has contributed \$75,000 as a founding sponsor of Trailblazer II, enabling TAME to reach tens of thousands more students across the state.

For more information please contact trailblazer@tame.org or (512) 471.6100 for pricing and availability.

West Gulf Maritime Association Meeting

Council Member Martin's Director of Special Projects, Lauren Doak, attended the West Gulf Maritime Association monthly membership meeting on Wednesday, June 26. Lynn Fallik, Assistant Director for Trade Operations, Customs & Border Protection Houston gave a presentation on USCBP's new Petroleum Center of Excellence and Expertise in Houston. Immediately following Lynn Fallik, Captain Michael J. Mierzwa, the Port Director for the Port of Galveston updated the membership regarding new developments at the Port of Galveston. Council Member Martin thanks WGMA for extending the invitation for his office to attend and looks forward to participating at future events.

HPD Vacation Alert

As many prepare for vacation this summer, Officer Richard Buitron with the Houston Police Department's Clear Lake Substation encourages you to take several steps to protect your home before heading out of town.

- Notify local law enforcement on your departure and return dates.
- Provide the name and telephone number of a neighbor or relative to notify in the event of an emergency.
- Place a "vacation hold" on newspaper subscriptions, mail delivery or ask a neighbor to pick up newspapers and mail during the vacation period.
- Place interior lights and radio on timers to give the appearance that the home is occupied.
- Notify neighbors of your absence and encourage them to contact the police regarding any suspicious activity at your home.

- Make sure all entry points into the home are secure.
- If you have an alarm system, leave a current list of contacts with the alarm company in case of the system activations.
- Disconnect the electric garage door opener and lock the garage door.
- Arrange for someone to mow your lawn, rake leaves and maintain the yard to give the home a lived-in look.
- Test your smoke and burglar alarms.
- Leave shades and blinds in a normal position.

For more information or if you should have questions, please contact Council Member Martin's office or your local Houston Police Department substation. www.houstontx.gov/police/contact/substations.html

Free Shredding and ID Theft Prevention Events in District E

The Mayor's Citizens Assistance Office, a division of the Department of Neighborhoods, announces Free Document Shredding and ID Theft Prevention services for District E residents. Sponsored in partnership with the Houston Police Department and Data Shredding Services, Inc., the event will take place in the southern portion of the council district in the next two months. These free, secure document shredding services are intended for individual residents, and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note it is for paper material only.

HPD Eastside Substation
7525 Sherman Street
Houston, TX 77012
Saturday, July 27, 2013
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

HPD Clear Lake Substation
2855 Bay Area Boulevard
Houston, TX 77058
Saturday, August 24, 2013
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The document shredding events are held at a different location each month to serve residents in neighborhoods throughout the city. For more information, please contact the Mayor's Citizens Assistance Office at (832) 393-0955 or visit their website at www.houstontx.gov/cao.

City of Houston's Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan Open House Dates Scheduled

The City of Houston's Planning and Development Department invites residents to attend a public open house on Tuesday, July 2, 2013 to learn more about the 2013 Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan. This plan is developed by the city as a result of developers and neighborhoods having issues such as congestion, mobility and future development plans. As a result, the city identifies sections of roadways that are in need of

expansion, either by lengthening or widening. Residents that are located adjacent to the identified roads are notified by mail and are encouraged to attend the scheduled public meetings.

Following the open house, a public hearing has been set for July 18, 2013 to give concerned citizens the opportunity to speak in support or opposition to the proposed amendments.

Open House:

Tuesday, July 2, 2013
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
United Way Community Resource Center
50 Waugh Drive
Houston, TX 77007

Public Hearing:

Thursday, July 18, 2013
2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
City Hall Annex Building
Council Chambers, Public Level
900 Bagby Street
Houston, TX 77002

For more information, please visit the Planning and Development Department's website to view Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan Amendments Requests including preliminary reports and presentations.

HPD Environmental Investigations Unit

As a response to neighborhood environmental concerns, the Houston Police Department has created the new Environmental Investigations Unit. The new division is designed to educate the community about local environmental criminal issues in neighborhoods around the city such as illegal dumping of tires and trash to used motor oil. The environmental Program has a slide presentation that shows these different types of dumping and is available to speak at home owner's association meetings and civic club meetings. If interested, please contact Sylvia Brumlow at (832) 394-0776 or at sylvia.brumlow@houstonpolice.org for an appointment.



83rd Legislative Update

During the meeting of the 83rd Texas Legislature, a few important bills passed directly impacting District E.

HB278 Relates to the liability of a municipality for certain space flight activities. This will allow Ellington Airport to open as a facility for horizontal spacecraft, which are currently being developed.

HB1642 The chair of the Port of Houston Authority will serve an additional six years and commissioners will be term limited to 12 years. The bill does not allow current commissioners who have served more than 12 years to serve the remainder of their terms. The earliest effective date is September 1, 2013.

HB5 Relates to public school accountability, including assessment, and curriculum requirements. HB5 decreases the total number of required end-of-course examinations from 15 to five, exchanges the minimum, recommended and advanced high school graduation programs with a single diploma for all students under a new "Foundation High School Program." It also includes language to ensure that districts use existing funding to provide accelerated instruction to failing students.

Upcoming Events

Please refer to Council Martin's District E [website](#) for location, time and more event details. Email the District E office if you would like us to include your upcoming event in future newsletters!



City Wides

July 4

Freedom Over Texas

Kingwood

July 4

Kingwood Fourth of July Parade

July 6

Electronic Waste Recycling at Kingwood's METRO Park and Ride

July 6

Lake Houston Trade Days

July 16

Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce's Third Tuesday Luncheon - A Salute to Healthcare

July 16

Kingwood PIP Meeting

July 27

Movies Under the Stars at Kingwood Town Center presented by Fred Astaire Dance Studio

August 24

Fourth Annual Lake Houston 10k/5k at Kings Harbor

South Houston/Clear Lake

July 16

South Belt Ellington Chamber's 83rd Legislative Update

July 13

Electronic Waste Recycling at Ellington Field Recycling Center

July 16

Clear Lake PIP Meeting

July 17

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's 83rd Legislative Update

July 24

Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce's General Membership Luncheon

July 27

Free Document Shredding and ID Theft Prevention Event at the HPD Eastside Substation

August 24

Free Document Shredding and ID Theft Prevention event at the Clear Lake HPD Substation

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